

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 IO-04 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20 CU-02 AF-04 EB-04 SWF-01 FRB-01

AGR-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 AID-05 DRC-01

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P R 151215Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8038

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT  
CINCUSARPAC  
DIA WASHDC  
CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
CNO  
COMNAVINTCOM  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
CINCPACAF  
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 13833

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - OCTOBER 15, 1974

GENERAL

1. PHW NOM PENH CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON EVENTS IN NEW YORK WHERE THE 29TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOVED FROM THE GENERAL DEBATE TO THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. THE PRO-GKR ASIAN RESOLUTION PICKED UP MORE CO-SPONSORS AND IS NOW UNDERGOING MINOR ALTERATION BEFORE ITS OFFICIAL DEBUT. THE GKR HAS DECIDED NOT TO PUT ITS CREDENTIALS IN JEOPARDY AT THE OCTOBER 17 OPENING OF UNESCO'S GENERAL CONFERENCE AND WILL HOLD IN ABEYANCE SUBMISSION OF ITS DOCUMENTS TO AVOID A CREDENTIALS CONFRONTATION UNTIL THE VOTE IN THE UNGA CLARIFIES THIS ISSUE. A FEW MORE ROCKETS THAN USUAL HAVE HIT PHNOM PENH THE PAST WEEK ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE CAPITAL REMAINS STABLE. THE BATTAMBANG-KOMPONG CHHNANG STRETCH OF ROUTE 5 IS OPEN AND BATTAMBANG AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING PLANS FOR A RICE CONVOY WHICH MUST AWAIT REPAIR OF A CRUCIAL BRIDGE DESTROYED EARLIER THIS MONTH.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)  
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2. PRESIDENT LON NOL TOLD THE NATION ON THE OCTOBER 9 ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC THAT KHMER MILITARY AND CIVILIANS HAVE SACRIFICED MUCH, NOT TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF ANY MAN OR CLIQUE, BUT TO DEFEND THEIR IDEAS AND TRADITIONS, HE PRAISED THE ARMED FORCES AND, WHILE RENEWING THE UNCONDITIONAL OFFER TO OPEN TALKS WITH THE OTHER SIDE, ASSURED THE KC THAT THE REPUBLIC WOULD FIGHT ON IF

NECESSARY. THE MARSHAL WELCOMED UN ASSISTANCE IF IT HELPS THE KHMER FIND THEIR OWN SOLUTION TO THE WAR BUT REJECTED ANY FORM OF UN ACTION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN INTER-FERENCE IN CAMBODIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. OVER 500 PRO-GOVERNMENT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE SIGNED A PETITION TO UNSYG WALDHEIM EXPRESSING A DETERMINATION FIGHT THE COMMUNISTS IN THE DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC, CATEGORICALLY OPPOSING SIHANOUK'S RETURN AND APPEALING TO THE UN TO PERSUADE THE OTHER SIDE TO TAKE UP LON NOL'S PROPOSAL FOR TALKS TO END THE WAR. (COMMENT: THIS IS TO COUNTER THE PRO-GRUNK PETITION FROM 630 KHMER INTELLECTUAL EXILES. SEE GRUNK/FUNK.)

4. FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ OPENED THE FIRST PHASE OF A RENEWED NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION EFFORT WITH AN OCTOBER 10 RADIO AND TELEVISION SPEECH ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN. FERNANDEZ CONGRATULATED DRAFT OFFICIALS ON THE PAST YEAR'S GOOD RESULTS DESPITE PROBLEMS AND CERTAIN FAULTS. HE CALLED ON KHMER CITIZENS TO FULFILL THEIR DUTY TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY AND BRIEFLY OUTLINED INCREASED FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR TROOPS IN THE VITAL COMBAT INTERVENTION UNITS. (COMMENT: THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IS THE FIRST STEP IN RENEWED GKR EFFORTS TO BRING IN THE MANPOWER NEEDED TO FILL OUT BADLY UNDERSTRENGTH FORCES BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED DRY SEASON KC OFFENSIVE OPENS IN DECEMBER/JANUARY.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

5. GENERAL DEBATE HAS ENDED AT THE UN'S 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. SIHANOUK'S AFRICAN SUPPORTERS WERE MOST VOCIFEROUS IN THEIR ATTACKS ON THE GKR. THE EASTERN  
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EUROPEANS AVOIDED INVECTIVE AND WERE GENERALLY MODERATE IN TONE BUT ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR THE GRUNK. IN HIS GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH OF OCTOBER 9, KHMER PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET NOTED THAT ONLY ONE ASIAN POWER, "SIHANOUK'S PATRON", IS SUPPORTING THE GRUNK DRAFT, AND THAT NEVER BEFORE HAS A PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIR LIKE A CHANGE IN REGIME CALLED INTO QUESTION A STATE'S UN REPRESENTATION. HE PROMISED FREE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT-HELD PARTS OF CAMBODIA FOR ALL WHO WOULD COME AND SEE THE KHMER SITUATION FOR THEMSELVES, AND CONCLUDED BY REASSERTING THE GKR'S DESIRE FOR PEACE AND CALLING ON THE UN TO AID IT IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL. ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFILKA WAS ABSENT FROM THE UNGA PRESIDING CHAIR AND A NUMBER OF GRUNK SUPPORTERS WALKED OUT AS BORET TOOK THE FLOOR.

6. THE ASIAN WORKING GROUP'S PRO-GKR RESOLUTION HAS  
SO FAR ATTRACTED 17 CO-SPONSORS, INCLUDING EIGHT LATINS,  
SEVEN ASIANS, THE UK AND CANADA.

GRUNK/FUNK

7. ACCORDING TO CLANDESTINE RADIO, THE FUNK BULLETIN  
IN PARIS HAS PUBLISHED A RESOLUTION OF 630 PRO-GRUNK  
STUDENTS AND DIGNITARIES INCLUDING SOME FORMER MINISTERS.  
ADDRESSED TO THE UN SYG, THE RESOLUTION DEMANDS THE  
EXPULSION OF THE GKR FROM THE UN AND THE RESTORATION  
OF GRUNK'S RIGHTS.

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P R 151215Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USMISSION USUN  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
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CINCPAC  
CINCPACFLT  
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CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
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COMSEVENTHFLT  
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III MAF  
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CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 13833

8. CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS PROMISED "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT" OF THE KC RAINY SEASON OFFENSIVE. A RESUME OF SEPTEMBER GAINS NOTES THAT THE CPNLAF INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES OF WEAPONS AND CASUALTIES AND SERIOUSLY WEAKENED FANK, WHICH IS "UNABLE TO PRESSGANG NEW MERCENARIES." KC FORCES CLAIMED TO HAVE DEFEATED FANK OPERATIONS AROUND PHNOM PENH AIMED AT EXPANDING THE CAPITAL'S DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. IN THE PROVINCES THE KC TRUMPETED VICTORY OVER PACIFICATION EFFORTS NEAR KOMPONG CHHNANG AND NOTED THAT THEY ARE ATTACKING AT SIEM REAP AND SVAY RIENG. ALONG WITH THESE "SUCCESES" THE REARLINE IS REPORTED TO BE UNDERTAKING A "RICE-GROWING OFFENSIVE FOR THE COMING DRY SEASON" AND HAS ALREADY HARVESTED SHORT-CYCLE RICE, THUS HELPING ESTABLISH FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR VICTORIES IN THE COMING DRY SEASON.

ECONOMIC

9. RETAIL PRICES WERE MIXED FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK. PORTKAND BEEF REMAINED STABLE; CHICKEN DECREASED 2 PERCENT; FRESH WATER FISH INCREASED 5 PERCENT WHILE OTHER FISH REMAINED STABLE; LOCAL RICE INCREASED 3 PERCENT AND PL 480 RICE WAS STABLE. THE INCREASE SINCE LAST  
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WEEK WAS 2 PERCENT, WHICH IS LOWER THAN THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S INCREASE OF 6 PERCENT. THE OVERALL PRICE INCREASE SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 15 REFORMS IS 27 PERCENT. ON MONDAY OCTOBER 14, THE EXCHANGE RATE WAS 1280 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THE AVERAGE BLACK MARKET RATE WAS 1404 RIELS PER DOLLAR FOR THE WEEK, SOMEWHAT DOWN FROM LAST WEEK.

10. THE NOUVEAU MARCHE DES CHANGES FLOOR RATE (WHICH APPLIES TO ESF IMPORTS) REMAINED AT 1221 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THE CIP PREFERENTIAL RATE FOR U.S.- SOURCE IMPORTS WAS 1028 RIELS PER DOLLAR, WHILE THE RATE FOR NON-U.S. SOURCE PROCUREMENT WAS 1221 RIELS PER DOLLAR.

11. ON OCTOBER 12, GOVERNMENT RICE STOCKS TOTALLED 32,720.8 METRIC TONS OR A 42.5 DAY SUPPLY IN PHNOM PENH PLUS A RESERVE STOCK IN KOMPONG SOM TOTALLING 2,686.4 METRIC TONS. THE ACTUAL DAILY DISTRIBUTION DURING THE WEEK (OCT 7 TO OCT 12) AVERAGED 697 METRIC TONS, A FURTHER DROP FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEKLY AVERAGE OF 719 METRIC TONS. THIS DECREASE CAN STILL BE ASCRIBED TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED HIGHER PRICE OF 165 RIELS PER KILO.

12. ROUTE 5 BETWEEN BATTAMBANG AND KOMPONG CHHNANG WAS REOPENED AGAIN ON OCT 11 BY ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY BY-PASS AROUND DAMAGED SECTIONS OF BRIDGE. THE BRIDGE ITSELF IS CURRENTLY BEING REPAIRED AND WILL BE REACTIVATED WITHIN A FEW DAYS. ACCORDINGLY, ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE IN BATTAMBANG TO EXPEDITE THE NEXT ROAD AND RIVER RICE DELIVERY TO PHNOM PENH.

13. A GKR MILITARY OPERATION IN KANDAL PROVINCE RESULTED IN THE LIBERATION OF 1,800 PEOPLE. CARE IS PREPARING TO PROVIDE SUCH RELIEF ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE REQUIRED.

MILITARY

14. THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO PRESSURE SVAY RIENG WITH DAILY ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) AND GROUND ATTACKS. SEVERAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON THE CITY'S NORTHERN AND WESTERN DEFENSIVE PERIMETER WERE LOST BUT GOVERNMENT COUNTER-  
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ATTACKS RECAPTURED MOST OF THEM. C-123 LOADED WITH MUNITIONS WAS SHOT DOWN FIVE KM NORTH OF SVAY RIENG. UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS SAY AN SA-7 MISSILE HIT THE CRAFT. FIFTEEN PEOPLE DIED IN THE CRASH. THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT SURVIVED.

15. ON OCT 7 ENEMY FORCES OVERRAN SEVERAL SMALL GOVERNMENT OUTPOSTS ALONG ROUTE 5 AND CUT THE ROAD 45 KMS EAST OF PURSAT. TWO TASK FORCES (ONE FROM PURSAT AND ONE FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG) SUPPORTED BY M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, CONVERGED ON THE ENEMY AND LINKED UP OCT.11 REOPENING THE ROUTE SUFFERING ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES.

16. ON OCT 10 GOVERNMENT FORCES HOLDING THE BRIDGE AT TALAT ON ROUTE 4 ABANDONED THEIR POSTS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK. CONTROL OF THE BRIDGE SEE-SAWED OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS; AT LATEST WORD THE ENEMY CONTROLS IT. FANK FORCES ARE CURRENTLY MANEUVERING TO RECAPTURE THE BRIDGE AND SWEEP THE ENEMY FROM THE AREA.

17. AROUND PHNOM PENH THE BASSAC RIVER OPERATION IS CONTINUING BUT MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS UNDER RELATIVELY HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE. ON OCT. 10 ENEMY GUNNERS FIRED FIVE 107MM ROCKETS AT THE CITY; ONE FELL WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS RESULTING IN TWO PEOPLE BEING INJURED. ON OCT 14 SEVEN 107MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED FROM THE NORTHWEST TOWARD POCHENTONG AIRPORT; THREE HIT NEAR THE CONTROL TOWER. SEVEN WERE INJURED IN THE ROCKETING.

18. OVER THE WEEK ONE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED UNSCATHED DESPITE HAVING SUFFERED TWO ABF'S ENROUTE. THERE WERE THREE ROUND TRIPS TO KOMPONG CHHNANG BY MNK CONVOYS AND ONE CONVOY TO KOMPONG CHAM. THE KOMPONG CHAM CONVOY CAME UNDER HEAVY ENEMY ABF'S, BUT NONE OF THE CRAFT WERE LOST. ADDITIONALLY, ONE NAVAL CONVOY FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG WENT TO SIEM REAP AND ONE NAVAL CONVOY FROM PHNOM PENH REACHED PREY VENG REPORTEDLY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 OCT 1974  
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